

THE NATIONAL ERA.

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FAMINE—DEATH FROM STARVATION—PLAN OF RELIEF.

The letter from our New York correspondent, on the first page, refers to the terrible ravages of famine in Ireland. The English papers received at our office are full of heart-rending details of starvation and death. What a spectacle! The granaries of this country overflowing, the poorest living luxuriously, speculators realizing fortunes by dealing in wheat and corn, while the curse of famine is brooding over every rood of land in poor Ireland.

The *Freeman's Journal* announces 1,200 notices to foreclose mortgages on Irish estates. According to a statement in the same paper, out of a population of 8,000,000, 2,500,000, in ordinary times, are destitute, and the total cost of providing for these is £11,375,000. How then, it asks, "is this enormous sum to be paid by a country whose gross rental amounts to only £10,000,000 of the year?"

To give some idea of the terrible distress, we present a few startling details.

At Skibbereen, Baldyhead, Scull, Castlehaven, Castletown, and other places, ten or twelve families a day are common, and collections are made in the churches to provide coffins for the destitute.

The "Nation" heads a paragraph, "the coroners too few." The coroners, it says, in Mayo, begin to be too few to hold the inquests. "Death by starvation," "Death from utter destitution," are verdicts which have become fearfully frequent.

Men with vacant stare, smitten with despair, wander listlessly along the highways, and skeleton women, with livid lips, pour forth piteous supplications to travellers to save their children, dying of want. The moaning infant attempts in vain to draw life from the exhausted mother.

The *Cork Examiner* says, that in the neighborhood of Castletown, one meal of cabbage a day is the only food of the inhabitants.

In the neighborhood of Crookhaven, says the *Cork Examiner*, a collection was made on Sunday, to purchase a bier to take the dead bodies to the grave without coffin; for so numerous had become the deaths, the living are no longer able to purchase coffins.

O'Connell, at the usual weekly meeting of the Repeal Association, said that the state of the country was ten-fold worse than one week before. The frost had set in, and cold and hunger were doing their work. In Connaught there were forty-seven deaths from starvation in one week—forty-seven cases in which coroners had rendered the verdict of "death from starvation."

The benevolent clergyman of the little parishes near Dunmurry Bay, said to a special reporter, "My dear sir, no description that I could give would: for a moment adequately tell the misery, wretchedness, and sufferings, of my poor people. They are in the most frightful state of destitution that can be possibly imagined. They are living almost entirely upon a description of sea weed called mi-vann, for they have long ago eaten up whatever cabbage and turnips were in the country."

"In a second house I visited in Macroom," says a special reporter, "I found no less than half a dozen members of a family huddled together in a heap, composed of hay, straw, rushes, shavings, and God knows what, with no covering whatever, save the rugs that constituted their only habitation. They were obliged to throw themselves indiscriminately together, so as to keep warmth in their attenuated frames."

"The *Cork Examiner* contains a letter signed N. M. Cummins, J. P. of the county of Cork, addressed to the Duke of Wellington. We give an extract: 'I went on the 15th instant to Skibbereen, and to give the instance of one townland which I visited, as an example of the state of the entire coast district, I shall state simply what I saw there. It is situated on the eastern side of Castletown harbor, and is named South Reen, in the parish of Myross. Being aware that I should have to witness scenes of frightful hunger, I provided myself with as much bread as five men could carry, and on reaching the spot I was surprised to find the wretched hamlet apparently deserted. I entered some of the hovels to ascertain the cause, and the scenes that presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In our street, six emaciated and ghastly skeletons, their appearance dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horse cloth, their wretched legs hanging as naked as the bones. I approached in horror, and found, by a low moaning, they were alive; they were in fever—four children, a woman, and what had once been a man. It is impossible to go through the details; suffice it to say, that in a few minutes I was surrounded by at least two hundred of such phantoms, such frightful spectres as no words can describe. By far the greater number were delirious, either from famine or from fever. Their demoniac yells are still in my ears, and their horrible images are fixed upon my brain. My heart sickens at the recital, but I must go on. In another case, decency would forbid what follows, but it must be told. My clothes were nearly torn off in my endeavor to escape from the throng of emaciated beings when my neck-cloth was seized from behind by a gripe which compelled me to turn. I found myself grasped by a woman with an infant just born in her arms, and the remains of a filthy sack across her loins—the sole covering of herself and babe. The woman, who at last opened a house on the adjoining lands, which was observed shut for many days, and two frozen corpses were found, lying upon the mud floor, half devoured by the rats."

And all this horrible desolation, the work of distilling ruin from corn still goes on. The demand for fire arms is beyond all calculation. Whatever else they sacrifice, the Irish peasantry will have arms. The restraints of law are fast giving way. Robberies of all descriptions abound. The soldiers are constantly on the alert to prevent the plunder of corn and flour by those whom hunger has driven to desperation.

What a painful reflection, that while millions of our fellow-creatures are thus wasting away—mothers wandering, deliriously, with dead infants in their arms, and fathers cursing the day when they rejoiced in the birth of children, whose cries for bread now drive them to madness—there is a surplus of the necessities of life in this country, enough to revive every drooping frame, and restore happiness to every mourning heart in that stricken island; and yet all that men think of is the gain resulting from the increased demand for flour and the rise in its price, when that very fact may prove the death of thousands!

Last season, when famine only threatened, we had several letters from farmers in the West, showing the most generous sympathy for Ireland, and inquiring whether some mode could not be devised for conveying their surplus breadstuffs to the seaboard, as a contribution towards mitigating the sufferings of the poor. What was then threatened now exists. Famine is laying waste like a Pestilence. If ever there was an imperative demand on the charities of the farmer, merchant, and shipper, of this country, that demand is now made.

A nation is on the brink of starvation. Why should not public meetings be called, committees of correspondence appointed, and the mode designated by which contributions of corn, flour, and provisions, might be concentrated at given points, so as to be conveyed immediately to Ireland? What a beautiful spectacle it would be—ships freighted with the rich gifts of one nation to the perishing millions of another! America, under the impulse of an exalted charity, reaching forth her hand to rescue unhappy Ireland from death by starvation! Infinitely more glory were there in this than in all the valor displayed by her soldiers on the Rio Grande or at Monterey. The chivalry of War seeks to rival the dark deeds of Pestilence and Famine. Heavenly Charity snatches a nation from the grave, and breathes life into its wasted form, hope into its sinking heart.

What miracles might not be wrought by a Benevolence such as Christianity enjoins! A few weeks since, a large meeting was called in New York for the purpose of contributing to the aid of Ireland. What, think you, was the sum total of its contributions? *Three thousand dollars!* Enough to carry relief to about twenty sufferers. A wondrous gift from a city of millions! Compare with this grudging charity, the benevolence of the poor Irish in that same city, who live by the sweat of their brow.

Jacob Harvey states, in the Courier, that he has taken the pains to call upon all the houses in this

city who are in the daily practice of drawing small drafts on Ireland, and has received from them an accurate return of the amounts received for these small drafts during the entire year 1846, and also during the last sixty days.

"The result is as creditable to his own countrymen that he cannot avoid publishing it, as an incentive to those who have, as yet, done nothing, 'to go and do likewise.'"

"The amount received by laboring Irish, male and female, during the year 1846, from New York, \$808,000; of which there went in November, 1846, \$175,000.

"These remittances are sent to all parts of Ireland, and by every packet, and we may judge of the relief afforded by a very large number of poor families in a year, when they are out short of their usual food, the potato. It has required no public meetings, says Mr. Harvey, no special addresses, to bring forth these remittances from the poor, nor do they look for any praise for what they have done. It is the natural instinct of the Irish peasant to share his mite—but he mites or potatoes—with those still poorer than himself, and he thinks he has done but a Christian duty, deserving of no special applause."

"It is difficult to exalt our estimate of human nature to record such a proof of the self-sacrifice and severe self-denial through which alone such a sum is here sent, \$808,000, could in one year be re-mitted from their savings by the Irish labor and service in and around this city. Of what other people in the world, under like circumstances, can such a fact be truly stated!"

This is an example worthy of imitation.

Before leaving this painful subject, we cannot but express our deep regret that a member of Congress should have deemed it necessary to introduce a resolution looking to legislation against what it chooses to style the importation of foreign paupers! What! would he drive back to the jaws of gaunt famine our fellow-men who are seeking a refuge from its ravages? Is there "no flesh in man's obdurate heart?" Were Congress at such a moment as this to resort to such legislation, we should regard it as filling up the cup of our iniquities. A terrible retribution would certainly fall upon a nation which, wanting nothing, denied an asylum to suffering strangers, wanting all things. No; let the American People welcome to their shores all the wretched of Ireland who may be so happy as to land upon them. They will lose nothing by their kindness. The pauper would be converted into the productive laborer, and gratitude would bind the Irish heart to the country of its adoption.

We would propose a national plan of relief something like this:

Let a public meeting of members of Congress and citizens of Washington be called, to meet in the hall of the House of Representatives. Let a Central National Committee of Relief be organized. Let points be designated where the surplus produce of the country might be deposited. Let a time be fixed when the contributions deposited should be concentrated at New Orleans, New York, and Boston, for shipment abroad. These points of deposit might be Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, &c. Let the Central Committee here open a correspondence with active, public-spirited citizens at all these places, and urge the organization of auxiliary committees. Let the plan be published in every paper in every State, local and general. Let the owners of boats, vessels, freight cars, &c., be called upon to convey contributions of produce free of charge, &c.

In this way, without feeling it, the United States might concentrate and direct its magnificent charities, so as to save Ireland from destruction.

WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

Last Monday was the day fixed for the consideration of the three million bill, but, as many seemed to be anxious to dispose of the appropriation bills, a motion was carried to postpone till next Monday, when it will again come up as the special order. Several Southern members voted against postponement, doubtless with a view of hastening the consideration of the bill, that might affect the fate of the Oregon bill in the Senate.

It will be recalled that a strenuous effort was made in the House to have the clause in the Oregon territorial bill, which prohibits slavery, stricken out, and that it failed, a large majority voting it down. The move was clearly made with a view of checking the Wilmot proposition. The bill went to the Senate, and, instead of being referred to the Committee on Territories, a majority of the members of which is from the free States, it was committed to the Committee on the Judiciary, a majority of which is from the slave States. It was not accident or caprice which gave this disposition to the bill. There can be no doubt that the thing was deliberately planned, with a view to hold in check the Democratic members from the free States. The Judiciary Committee has, accordingly, reported the Oregon territorial bill, with the anti-slavery clause stricken out; and the bill, thus amended, awaits the action of the Senate.

It must be remembered that the slaveholding interest has the numerical power in this body, fifteen slaveholding States being represented, while there are but fourteen free States.

It is difficult to foresee exactly what will be the action of the antagonistic elements. The question of slavery is necessarily forced upon the attention of both Houses; and the lines are beginning to be drawn with great distinctness. The slaveholding element has some peculiar advantages. It is, to a certain extent, a unit; it has been accustomed to rule; it knows how to bribe, beguile, and browbeat; it is deeply versed in parliamentary tactics; it has a representative in the President, and an advocate in the national organ of the Democratic party; it can "bid high" for members from the free States, in the market, and, through Executive influence, buy up certain presses at influential points in these States, causing them to belie public sentiment.

On the other hand, the members from the free States are forever divided, deeming questions of pecuniary interest of more importance than personal rights. They place money above the man. They are accustomed to bow the back to the burden. They hate each other's principles more than they do slavery domination. They are kept down by social influences. If they would assert their freedom, they must expect to be snubbed, scolded, denounced, by the national party organs in this city.

Withal, their numerical superiority in the House is balanced by the predominance of the slave power in the Senate.

What say the true friends of freedom throughout the country? If they would prevent the final ascendancy of slavery, and expect their Representatives and Senators to battle the arts and breast the opposition which will be brought to bear against them, they must let them hear from home. Public meetings should be held; letters should be written; the press should give voice to the will of a free people.

But, how will the struggle terminate? The consideration of the Oregon territorial bill may be deferred by the Senate till the House shall have acted on the three million bill. If this pass without the obnoxious proviso, the anti-slavery clause will probably be restored to the former bill, and pass the Senate; but if the House will not tolerate slavery in California, the Senate will not allow the exclusion of slavery from Oregon. If the Senate restore the anti-slavery clause to the Oregon bill, the House may be persuaded to give the go-by to the proviso; but if the Senate send back the Oregon bill to the House, with the anti-slavery clause stricken out, most assuredly the House will adopt the proviso. The three million bill, with the proviso, however, will not be assented to by the Senate.

What a spectacle to be exhibited to the world! What a crisis in the history of the country! The slave power doggedly forbidding the erection of a free government in Oregon, our own territory, because the free-labor interest will not give the national sanction to a slave government in California and New Mexico, free provinces, torn by violence from a sister republic! Is the slave power willing to precipitate such a crisis; to present such an issue; to stake its final destinies on this formidable struggle?

C. W. March, Esq., has become, by purchase, one of the proprietors of the New York Tribune. He is an excellent writer.

CHAPLAINS—CONGRESS—THE ARMY.

The debate in the Senate a few days ago, on the proposition to provide chaplains for the army about to be raised, was highly suggestive.

Mr. Hannegan, the mover of the proposition, was earnest in its support. Noticing an estimate which placed the total cost of such a measure at \$75,000, he said this was nothing to the vast benefits to be secured by it to the soldier. In the severest terms he denounced the want of subordination and discipline among the American soldiers in Mexico, and spoke plainly of the "robberies, cruelties, murders, ravishments," committed by them. If any class of men needed the services of chaplains, it was the volunteers. The destitution of our forces in this respect was deplorable. He was informed by Commodore Perry, that there was not a single chaplain in the Gulf squadron.

Mr. Sevier, of Arkansas, was opposed to the whole measure. It had been declared in Mexico that the war was one of Religion; and when Protestant clergymen were seen with our armies, it would give countenance to the declaration.

There were many Christians in the army, proportionately, as among Senators.

The salary proposed to be given was too high—(\$1,500 and rations). He would engage to furnish chaplains from Arkansas at a far less cost. Methodist preachers in his State got only one or two hundred dollars. It was unwise to make the chaplaincy of such a rank, and attach to it such a compensation, as to stimulate the worldly ambition of clergymen. What was the fact in relation to the chaplaincy to Congress? Was it not notorious that it had become a practice for clergymen and their friends to elect one for it? Numerous had been the applications to him on this behalf; and, he must confess, a certain feeling of repugnance to the clergy had been the consequence.

These statements of Senators are worthy of serious attention. There can be no doubt that Christianity is brought into disrepute by the petty struggles of its ministers for an office, on account of the distinction or emolument belonging to it. We have never heard a valid reason offered in favor of the chaplaincy to Congress. So far as preaching is concerned, there are churches enough in Washington to supply all the demands of members of that body. The custom of opening the sessions of both Houses with prayer is altogether becoming. It is a public acknowledgment of the supremacy of the Almighty, and of his overruling Providence, calculated to remind the finite legislator of his obligations to the Infinite Lawgiver. But why provide an office specially for this purpose, when the natural result will be, disgraceful jealousies, beggings, electioneering among self-seeking aspirants? Why might not Congress pass a resolution inviting the clergy of the different denominations to officiate at the opening of each session? Surely they could spare a few moments for such a work, without being paid five hundred dollars for it. The world has a right to demand from ministers of the gospel conduct that shall demonstrate the absence of sordid motive.

As to our war chaplains, there must be great abuses. There are twenty-two in the naval service; but, according to the statement of Mr. Hannegan, made upon the authority of Commodore Perry, there is not one in the Gulf squadron. Absent from the very spot where the sufferers from sickness and the sword specially require their services! What are they about? Their pay is abundant. What are their labors? The truth is the chaplain, unfortunately, is invested with the charm of rank, and the compensation is attractive. Is it any wonder that worldly, mercenary men should strain every nerve to secure such a prize?

After all, there is a melancholy incongruity in the employment of war chaplains. What is the duty of a minister of the gospel? To inculcate meekness, moderation, patience, forbearance, peaceableness—to set his face against selfishness, ambition, violence, pride, revenge, the shedding of blood—to teach implicit and paramount obedience to the laws of God, in all cases. But, if he performs his duty faithfully, what becomes of the soldier? Let a man be a Christian, honest and enlightened, and he cannot be a soldier—he cannot consent to be an instrument in the hands of Government to shoot, stab, mutilate, or hew in pieces, his brother man. The chaplain must make up his mind to withhold an essential part of the truth, or preach the whole truth, and—be cashiered. He may plead, however, that the chief task he has assumed is that of attending to the wants of the sick, the wounded, the dying—administering to them, in their greatest need, the consolations of religion. This is a rare case. The chaplain is a companion of the officers. It is expected that he tacitly sanction, if not openly vindicate, any war in which the Government may chance to embark—that he shall pray the "God of Battles" to crown the arms of his country with victory; and, in his position, he must possess more moral courage than belongs to ministers generally, if he dare to disappoint this expectation. He has thrown himself into a fiery furnace, and must not look for a miracle to save him from the flames. Let the Government provide an abundant supply of chaplains for the war service; let them all be perfectly true and fearless—arguing in season and out of season, all the requirements of the Christian religion—and army and navy would soon cease to be. As it is, religion is perverted to the support of the principles and practice of war. Its ministers recognize the profession of arms, as one on which they may ask the blessing of God, and the camp as a not unfit place for the institution of the church. Prayers and psalm-singing, in their estimation, are in entire harmony with the battle shout, death shot, and horrid curses of an enraged soldier.

And yet, as Douglass Jerrold says, "the very idea of an army, fresh reeking from the throne of grace, issuing forth to slaughter a host of brother saints, or even of fellow sinners, seems scarcely admissible into any brain that is not already taken care of in Hanwell or Bedlam?"

THE WAY OF THE WORLD.

The world is full of conventional hypocrisy. It would seem to be the aim of a large portion of the human family to practice falsehood upon themselves—to see how far by lying conventionalities they can impose upon their own judgments, and perpetuate delusion.

A man, whose life has been stamped all over with unmitigated selfishness, after having enjoyed the consideration which wealth or connection commands, dies. Ah, there is mourning, such a star had fallen from Heaven! Poverty has lost a friend—virtue a defender, society a model! And all this falsification is tolerated because conventional.

In such a body as the Congress of the United States, there are Representatives of all classes and habits. Without offence, we may say that the mere fact of being a member is not *prima facie* evidence of capacity, honesty, or purity. Vice, under its grossest forms, may find votaries in an American Congress. But it is somewhat remarkable that a dishonest or debauched member never dies!

"Death leaves a shining mark," and every member stricken by his dart is sainted for his virtues. Whatever the rottenness within, the sepulchre shall not rot. "The memory of the wicked shall not rot," said Solomon; the memory of the wicked is blessed by conventional hypocrisy.

But in nothing is this vice more glaringly and ridiculously manifest, than in congressional speeches and proceedings on the war with Mexico. One member talks in glowing terms about defending our country, its hearth-stones and its altars, and his party listen as gravely as if they really believed what he said; when, in fact, there is not a hostile Mexican foot within five hundred miles of our borders. Others can never cease expatiating upon the grand displays of chivalric valor and disciplined energy, at the battles of the Rio Grande and storming of Monterey. An aged Senator, bearing a military title, informed the Senate the other day, that the American Union had been so long at peace, as almost to have faded away from European vision; the bravery by which we had signalled ourselves in former wars with Great Britain was forgotten; it was well that an opportunity presented itself for showing to the

world American valor; our triumphs over the Mexicans had proved that we were first in war as in peace! Grave Senators, listeners in the galleries, meantime, seemed to believe all this, though they all knew that a Mexican army was but a mob; and that the province of Texas alone, with a population not so large as that of Baltimore, had overturned the Government of Mexico, driven out all her armies, and maintained independence against all her attempts to re-subjugate it!

Others are loud in their laudations of the regular army, and plume themselves greatly upon the coolness and courage of the American soldiery, although all of them are foreigners, and most of them are cool, because they have lost all thought of an *herafter*.

But the heaviest showers of praise fall upon the volunteers, who are spoken of as having rushed to the battle field under the impulse of the most exalted patriotism. A large portion of the time of Congress has been consumed by the glorification of men guilty of the most outrageous excesses.

We wish the soldiers, both regulars and volunteers, could understand the real estimate placed upon them by the Christian statesmen who are so anxious to send them to the slaughter. A Senator, a few days ago, referred to the alacrity with which young gentlemen of his State offered themselves as volunteers, at the first tap of the drum, and lamented that such men, of the first families, and with fine prospects, should have enlisted—they were too good for the army. He was in favor of increasing the regular force, for its recruits are such as society can well spare! These were not his words, but his sentiments. One day we heard a Senator deploring the general disorder and corruption among the volunteers, denouncing them as guilty of the most abominable acts; and, two or three days after, he was declaiming, in grand style, about their ardent patriotism, and the chivalry which had impelled them to risk life for the sake of avenging the wrongs of their country!

When will the mechanic, the laborer, the poor man, learn to despise these arts of statesmen, who, by appealing to their vanity, and, through bounty lands, to their cupidity, are aiming to arouse in their hearts all destructive passions, and convert them into mere instrumentalities for shedding blood? What have they to gain by abandoning their homes and going to Mexico? Evil associates, evil habits, military slavery, the honor of aiding in a grossly aggressive war, and the sweet consolation of a grave on the heights of the Cordillera!

We are our soil invaded, our liberties threatened, our families in danger, the case would be different—self-defence would hold to be the right of the individual and the nation; but we can recognise no generous feeling, no patriotism, no common sense, in the man who leaves his family and his honest employment, for the sake of enabling Mr. Polk to despoil Mexico of a few more provinces, some five hundred miles from our own territory.

ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY.

A writer, in an article on our fourth page, on the annexation of territory to the Union, speculates very ingeniously, but the conclusions at which he arrives we think unsound. We had intended to examine his article at length, but must content ourselves with showing reasons why, in our opinion, extension of slave territory will increase the power of slavery. And here the reader will pardon us for quoting from an article on this subject which we wrote nearly a year ago:

What does the past teach? That slavery lives by *expansion*. Slave labor cannot, on the whole, be profitably used in manufactures, commerce, or farming. In the growth of sugar, cotton, tobacco—that is, in *planting*—it may be turned to pecuniary account; but planting is an exhausting process, and, to be conducted with permanent advantage to the planter, requires constant accessions of territory. Deny it these, and see the results. The soil is impoverished; the free population of moderate means is forced out of the State; slave laborers multiply beyond the demands for employment; a wearing burden is thrown upon the planter, who must feed a surplus of laborers with diminished products; he attempts to diversify his labor, but, in so doing, makes the most serious error he can commit—the attempt, or convert his slaves into freemen. The result is, a state of things in which the voice of self-interest imperatively demands emancipation. He must leave the State, or free his slaves.

Ere this, had additional territory been denied to the slavery of the old slave States, it would have been at least in process of abolition. But it was allowed to propagate itself, and, in so doing, it gathered new life. Not only were the new States, formed out of the territory originally possessed by the Union, given up to its ravages, but Florida, and the immense territory of Louisiana, were opened to it. Why did not these acquisitions, "in the direction of the tropic," operate to the detriment of slavery, and the diminution of its political power? Will the *Times* answer? So far from losing in political power, slavery has gained incalculably, having acquired eighteen additional Senators in Congress, while Freedom has added but twelve to that body! And who so uninformed as to suppose that the prospect of the abolition of slavery is now so favorable as it was before the purchase of Louisiana?

In 1790, the number of slaves in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, was about 550,000. In 1840, it was in the same States, 1,400,000; being an increase in half a century, of 850,000. And this, too, notwithstanding the tendency of the acquisition of territory in the direction of the tropic to diminish the political power of slavery, and work its extinction!

Let us examine the subject more particularly. If there were no new territory opened to slavery, the growth of the free population in the old slave States, already retarded, would be totally arrested, owing to two causes—the increased infrequency of marriage, and the augmented emigration of the middling-class population. At the same time, the ratio of increase among the slaves would be diminished, in consequence of increased restrictions upon their intercourse, rendered necessary by the interests of the planters. The certain result would be, a constant diminution of political power.

Now, open to the slaveholders new territory, allow them an outlet in the "direction of the tropic," and what are the results? The older States are relieved by a wholesome drain, the surplus slaves are colonized, and their increase encouraged by every suitable means. A new way to make slaves profitable is opened to the older slave States. They become stock-growers. They raise slaves for market; and now, so far from discouraging their natural increase, stimulate it. The slave population is hereby rapidly augmented. The heavy proceeds of the sales of these human beings give a stimulus to business generally. The planter, by parting with his excess of labor on profitable terms, is enabled to employ the rest to advantage. The few sections of the State which have been completely exhausted by slavery, and abandoned by the slaveholder, are taken up by settlers from the free States, who, without in the least changing the sentiment of the State or the character of its legislation, add to its wealth and its population.

In this way, the retrograde march of old slave communities is checked, and their political power still maintained, while the new States or Territories are so much *dead gain* to the slave power. Their growth is owing to immigration, not only from slaveholding portions of the Union, but also from the non-slaveholding. Vast numbers of persons, who never could have been induced to migrate to the old slave States, swarm into the new, and they all become slaveholders.

It is in this way that the acquisition of Louisiana and Florida has spread slavery over new regions, and established the slave power in the State after State, at the same time that it has prevented that rapid diminution of the political power of slavery in the old States, which must have taken place, had the evil been confined to its original limits.

Can any one, then, assign a single reason why further acquisitions in the direction of the tropic and the Pacific, if you please, will not have precisely the same effects as the acquisitions already made?

Why deceive ourselves? The establishment of slavery in California, in New Mexico, or a part of it, and throughout Texas, will invest the slaveholding class with a power, from which there can be no escape. Of all lying dreams that have ever deluded speculators upon the destiny of this republic, that is the most bitter mockery, which tells us that the Union can remain steadfast and immovable after the non-slaveholding portion of these States has been made to kick the beam, under the added weight of ten or a dozen new, rich, powerful, slaveholding States, stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

PARAGRAPHS.

Seventy-two Whigs and seventy-four Democrats have been returned to the House of Representatives of Maine. Legislation will be pretty well balanced.

Mr. Cushing has accepted the appointment of Colonel of the Massachusetts regiment of volunteers. Great glory in prospect, from blowing out the brains of a semi-barbarous people.

By the latest dates, it seems that an insurrection had been contemplated at Santa Fe. The wealthy Mexicans have not been annexed to the Union long enough to have grown very patriotic.

THE INSPIRATION OF CONGRESS.

No one can conceive of the inspiring influence of ladies on members of Congress. One-half of the eloquence so lavishly expended in this eloquent body, should be set down to the credit of women. Last Monday many bright eyes lit up the galleries of the House, and produced a most amusing effect upon a small gentleman who had the floor. His subject was unimportant, and for a time he addressed himself to the Chair with remarkable directness. But, in some lucky movement, he caught sight of a beaming Beauty in the gallery, behind him. "Right about face," was the word; his head was literally turned; his eyes kindled; the fire of eloquence began to glow upon his round, fleshy face; his voice rambled through all the notes of the gamut; his frame expanded as much as skin would let it; and ever and anon, a mellow smile would liquefy his features, upturned always at such moments towards the charmers, who seemed to exert an attraction upon him like the spell by which the snake draws the innocent bird within reach of its folds. At last he closed, having made, as he thought, a most decided hit. The question being determined in his favor, he took occasion to walk up the aisle, so that he might give to the dark eyes, by which he had conquered, the privilege of admiring both the orator and the man.

TEMPERANCE IN THE NAVY.

A strenuous effort was made a few days since, while the naval appropriation bill was under consideration, to abolish the spirit ration. A minority, however, contrived to defeat it, by continually embarrassing the resolution with amendments. At last, the House agreed, by a vote of 76 to 65, to an amendment of Mr. J. A. ROCKWELL, allowing six cents per day to such seamen as may elect to receive the same in lieu of the spirit ration now allowed in the navy. It would have been more in accordance with reason and the spirit of the age, which has little sympathy with the spirit of wine, to have prohibited the Government from supplying rum to the navy. Nobody would think it an infringement of the rights of sailors to forbid supplies of spoiled meat or vegetables. Why is it unreasonable to withhold what is worse than either? But the resolution adopted is better than nothing.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have on hand several excellent communications, which shall appear soon. Unfortunately, the usual letter from our Boston correspondent is crowded out. We hope he will pardon us this time. An apology is due to T. E. for the delay of his communication.

COLONEL CILLEY AND HIS RESOLUTIONS.

We intend to publish next week a corrected report of the remarks of Colonel Cilley in support of his resolution directing the President to withdraw our armies from Mexican territory.

THE MARKETS.

We have not yet been able to make arrangements for furnishing brief reports of the markets in Baltimore and the principal Eastern cities, but they will soon be completed.

THE BLACK LAWS OF OHIO.

The Senate of Ohio has postponed indefinitely all the bills reported to repeal the black laws. The vote on postponing the bill to repeal the testimony law stood, yeas 19, nays 14; one Democrat voting in the negative; three Whigs, Goldard, Madeira, and Stutson, in the affirmative.

CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.

Yesterday, Mr. CILLEY called up his resolution to withdraw the army of the United States from Mexican territory, and made a few remarks in support of it. A motion to lay it upon the table prevailed without a dissenting voice.

To-day, in the Senate, the bill to raise an additional force was considered, and several attempts were made to amend. These war bills and resolutions give Senators a fine opportunity for displaying their military lore. Mr. Benton, to-day, demonstrated, to the satisfaction of every body, that he had completely digested Vattel on the law of war, and Caesar's Commentaries. Many were the ears he caused to stand erect, while he read learned authorities to show the true meaning of "Covetousness," "solitiger," "salto," &c. Mr. Benton is great for elementary instruction.

The Senate, on an amendment offered by Mr. Atchison, of Missouri, to raise volunteers instead of regulars, indicated its preference for the latter by a vote of 30 to 20 against the amendment.

Another amendment, offered by Mr. Allen, proposing to authorize the President to raise 10,000 additional volunteer troops, (which he had not asked for,) was voted down.

The proviso which authorized the President to appoint officers in the recess of the Senate, was stricken out; but a proposal to exclude members of Congress from any of the offices about to be created, was rejected—only 17 voting for it.

The bill was then reported with the amendments; and on a proposition to strike out that portion of it which related to land bounty, a debate arose, which was cut short by adjournment.

In the House, the naval appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole. At 1 o'clock, Mr. SLES, of South Carolina, was speaking.

Mr. SAWYER arose and asked whether the resolution passed this morning did not require that debate be now closed. [This was a resolution "to close the debate at 1 o'clock to-morrow," which, instead of being passed yesterday, was passed to-day.]

Mr. FICKLIN, the Chairman, decided that the resolution, though offered yesterday, not being passed till to-day, required that the debate should close to-morrow at 1 o'clock. An appeal was taken; no quorum voted, although a quorum was present.

The House came out of Committee, and thereupon ensued a struggle between the parties, which lasted till 10 o'clock at night, when the House adjourned, without any action, after having been vexed with all kinds of motions, and ordered the yeas and nays a score of times, amid a continual uproar.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.

Mr. SLES, of South Carolina, concluded his speech in the House on the naval appropriation bill. He took occasion, in the course of his remarks, to discuss the question of slavery, and asserted that the God of Nature had stamped slavery upon the territories we were about acquiring from Mexico. They could not be cultivated without slave labor.

Mr. PAYNE, of Alabama, next obtained the floor. He assumed the seat of a judge, and passed sentence of condemnation upon all and any who chose to differ from the Administration. He alluded to the movement in relation to the tea and coffee tax, and deemed it highly unpatriotic. Gen. Scott was next taken up, and laid out. No apartment for the Presidency ought to be in the command of our armies. Then he bestowed a kick upon General Taylor. He would not believe him to be the author of the letter going the rounds of the newspapers—so contemptible a letter as that. He could not believe that he would stoop to play the part of a petty

